THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) The Government is aware of detention of 110 individuals claiming to be Indian nationals in Ukraine for illegal entry.

(b) The Indian diplomatic Mission in Ukraine is in the process of ascertaining the nationality and passport details of the 110 detained individuals from the concerned authorities in India. These individuals will be repatriated to India on completion of this process. However, the Ukraine authorities have already deported at least 10 of them to Russia from where they entered Ukraine.

(c) None of the detainees interviewed by the Indian Mission in Ukraine was forthcoming in giving the name of the erring travel agent/tout.

Indians imprisoned in Guatemala

†1987. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that twenty five Non Resident Indians are still in captivity in Guatemala;

(b) if so, the Government's reactions thereto; and

(c) the details of the action taken by Government to set them free from the captivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) According to information available with the Government, twenty five individuals claiming to be Indian nationals were detained by the Guatemalan authorities in January, 2002 for not possessing proper travel documents. These individuals are reported to have since been released.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.